

February 27, 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am a student in Connecticut and I am writing this letter to request that the Connecticut General Assembly immediately pass H.B. No. 5221 to reform juvenile justice and sentencing. It is immoral, unwise, and now unconstitutional for Connecticut to allow juveniles to be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for crimes committed under the age of 18, and it is time for Connecticut to change these outdated laws.

Juvenile sentencing in Connecticut under current law fails to acknowledge the "mitigating qualities of youth" that the Supreme Court has ruled we must consider in sentencing children. These qualities include greater capacities for self-improvement and underdeveloped brains. Furthermore, many of the juveniles who have gone through the juvenile justice system have been subjected to poverty, violence, and peer pressure. This socioeconomic element is only compounded by the fact that minorities are overrepresented in Connecticut's prisons and juvenile detention centers with 92% of juvenile offenders serving 50 or more years identifying as African American or Hispanic.

The Connecticut Sentencing Commission's recommended legislation would promote the change we need in juvenile sentencing. The proposal prohibits mandatory life sentences without parole for juvenile offenders. Passing this bill would therefore bring Connecticut into compliance with the Supreme Court's ruling, but more importantly, it's the right thing to do, providing overdue recognition of juvenile offenders' right to a second chance. Even if some offenders shouldn't receive parole, it is critical that juveniles receive special consideration within our justice system, which is why they should all at least be eligible for a parole hearing.

As a forward-looking state, Connecticut should be a national trailblazer and show the rest of the nation the many benefits of improved laws concerning juvenile justice. The revision of our existing laws can prove that Connecticut understands the nuances and careful attention needed in juvenile sentencing efforts. Our state needs to rededicate itself to the ideals of juvenile justice. By doing this, we once again can become a national leader and stand at the forefront of American justice.

Sincerely,

Hailey Winston

Address:

PO 212167
New Haven, CT 06520

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,



Address:

302 York St
New Haven, CT 06511

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Sincerely,



Address:

Jonathan Edwards College, New Haven, CT 06520

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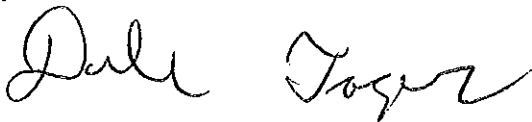
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06520

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University St
New Haven CT 06511

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Sincerely,

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Address:

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,



Address:

Shes College, New Haven, CT

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dylan S.", written over a horizontal line.

Address:

Stiles College, New Haven CT

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,

Anna Thurman

Address:

Ed. College
New Haven CT

February 27, 2014

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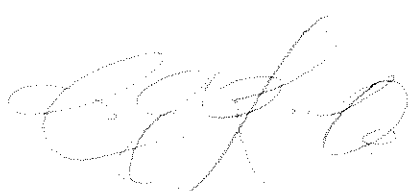
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Address:

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Sincerely,

Lucy Hatterman

Address:

Stiles College

New Haven, CT 06520

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,



Address: *3300 Main St, New Britain, CT 06053*

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Sincerely,

Alexander Downie

Address: 68 High Street
Jonathan Edwards
New Haven, CT 06520

February 27, 2014

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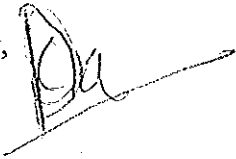
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Sincerely,

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Address:

80 SCENIC COURT
CHESHIRE

February 27, 2014

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Address:

68 High St.

Jonathan Edwards

New Haven, CT 06520

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Sincerely,

Grace White

Address:

68 High Street,
New Haven

February 27, 2014

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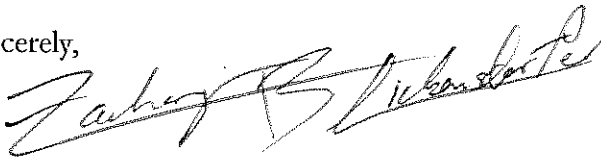
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As a forward-looking state, Connecticut should be a national trailblazer and show the rest of the nation the many benefits of improved laws concerning juvenile justice. The revision of our existing laws can prove that Connecticut understands the nuances and careful attention needed in juvenile sentencing efforts. Our state needs to rededicate itself to the ideals of juvenile justice. By doing this, we once again can become a national leader and stand at the forefront of American justice.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Falkenberg

Address:

68 High Street
Jonathan Edwards College
New Haven, CT 06511

February 27, 2014

To whom it may concern,

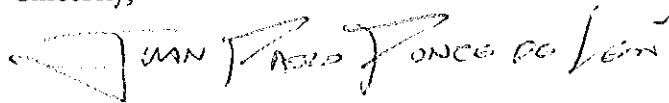
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "JUAN PONCE DE LEON". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'J' and 'P'.

Address:

88 08 HIGH ST., NEW HAVEN, CT. 06511

February 27, 2014

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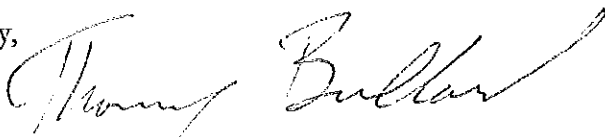
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68 High Street
New Haven, CT

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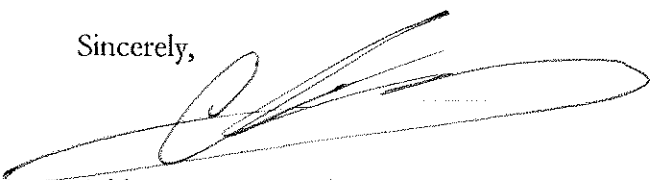
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Sincerely,

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Address: 68 High Street
New Haven, CT 06511

February 27, 2014

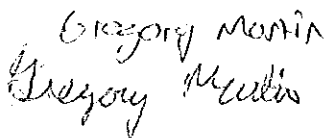
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Sincerely, 
Gregory Martin

Address: 683 High St.
New Haven, CT 06511

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,

Jill Corneo

Address:

*68 High St.
New Haven CT 06511*

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,



Address:

~~145-15-16-8-123~~
~~145-15-16-8-123~~
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68 high street
New Haven, CT 06520

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely, *Ryoin Simpson*

Address: *68 High Street*
New Haven, CT

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,

Tyler Blackmon


Address:

68 High St.

New Haven, CT 06511

* This could be me! *

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,

Angela Pollard

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Address:

JP

68 High Street
New Haven, CT

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,

 Jonah Bader

Address:

PO Box 212

68 High St

New Haven, CT 06511

February 27, 2014

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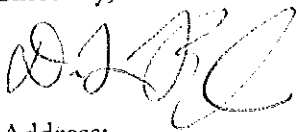
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Deanna Palenzuela

Address:

68 High St.
New Haven, CT

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Sincerely,



Andrew Gross
Address:

206 Elm St

New Haven, CT 06511

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,

 NATALIA CASTILLEJO ARIAS

Address: 68 High St
C21
New Haven, CT

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Myawisa Nyoraz Marisa Moraz

Address:

68 High St.
New Haven, CT

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Sincerely,



Address:

Chelsea Watson
68 High Street
New Haven, CT 06520